



2024 Also-Known-As Adoptee Excellence Scholarship

Application Deadline: Friday, April 26, 2024 at 11:59PM EST

Also-Known-As, Inc. is a New York-based national nonprofit adoptee organization that serves international adoptees and their families. Founded in 1996 by Hollee McGinnis, it is the longest-running adoptee-led organization for adoptee services in the United States. The mission of Also-Known-As is to build a community that empowers the voices of adult international adoptees, while providing resources and space to acknowledge the loss of birth country, culture, language, and biological family. Also-Known-As is not a culturally-specific organization.

The Also-Known-As Adoptee Excellence Scholarship is the first scholarship program of its kind that acknowledges, celebrates, and supports outstanding undergraduate students and graduating high school seniors who are international adoptees, born in and adopted from another country to the United States. It is open to international adoptees who demonstrate the attributes of leadership, drive, integrity, and civic engagement. One individual will be awarded a \$1,000.00 (one-thousand dollars and zero cents) scholarship to support their full-time study at an accredited institution.

Also-Known-As seeks candidates who have used their adoption story and formative youth experiences to lead, serve, and pursue a life of purpose and significance, both individually and for their communities. An all-adoptee scholarship committee will be responsible for selecting the scholarship recipient.

International adoptees are invited to apply if they are U.S. citizens; age 25 or under; and plan to enroll full-time in 2024 at an accredited college, university or vocational-technical school in the United States. Financial need will be considered. This merit scholarship will be awarded in June 2024.

For more information, FAQs, and to apply, please visit <https://www.alsoknownas.org/scholarships>.

Eligibility

Applicants of the Also-Known-As Adoptee Excellence Scholarship must:

- be a U.S. citizen and an international adoptee—a U.S. citizen who was born outside of the United States and adopted from another country;
- be a current undergraduate student age 25 or under, or a high school senior who is graduating in the spring or summer of 2024;
- and plan to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school for the entire upcoming academic year.

Award

- The scholarship recipient will receive a one-time award of \$1,000.00 (one-thousand dollars and zero cents).
- Awards are only for full-time undergraduate study in the United States.
- The award may only be used for tuition, fees, books and required supplies.

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of:

- Academic record
- Essay responses
- Financial need
- Demonstrated leadership and participation in school and community activities
- Work ethic and contributions to society through job and/or volunteer experience

Notification & Payment of Scholarship

Applicants will be notified via email in June 2024. The scholarship recipient consents via photo consent form to the release of images captured of them, or images under their ownership, to be used for media publication (newsletter, website, social media). Also-Known-As bestows scholarship payment via check.

If you have any additional questions, please email the Scholarship Committee at scholarship@alsoknownas.org.

Application Instructions

Please complete the five following documents and email them in a SINGLE email to scholarship@alsoknownas.org. The subject line should be: “Scholarship Application 2024: Your Full Name.”

Your application will not be considered unless all required documents are submitted in the same email (with exceptions for your letter of recommendation and official transcript, if applicable). Files must be uploaded in either a Word document or PDF file as specified below (no Google Document links or other file-hosting websites).

Required Documents:

1. **Application Form** (page 4, Word .doc or PDF file)
2. **Essay Responses** (page 5, Word .doc or PDF file)
Be sincere, honest, reflective, and clear when writing your essay question responses. Each essay should be 350 words or less.
3. **Resume** (Word .doc or PDF file)
4. **Official Academic Transcript** (PDF file)
Include a digital or scanned OFFICIAL transcript from the high school and/or most recent college/university attended.
5. **Letter of Recommendation** (PDF file)
Include a 1-page letter of recommendation from a non-family member who can speak about your character, qualities as a person, and why you deserve the Adoptee Excellence Scholarship and recognition from the international adoptee community. If needed, the letter can be sent separately. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure their recommendation letter is submitted on time. Only one letter of recommendation will be considered, and it should include the following:
 - Recommender's full name, mailing address, telephone number, email address.
 - Recommender's occupation, name of employer, employer address.
 - How do you know the applicant? How long have you known each other?

Also-Known-As Adoptee Excellence Scholarship Application Form

Required: Please fill out the following information.

General

- Applicant's Full Name:
- Applicant's Email Address:
- Mailing Address:
- Country you were adopted from:

Background

- In 2024, will you be a graduating high school senior or a current undergraduate student? Choose one.
 - Graduating high school senior
 - Current undergraduate student
- Where did you hear about the Also-Known-As Adoptee Excellence Scholarship?
- Are you or your family members of Also-Known-As? If so, which Also-Known-As programs or events have you participated in?
- How much exposure to the adoptee community have you had? List any past experiences/involvement with adoptee or adoption-related groups or organizations.

Financial Need

- One of the criteria for the scholarship is financial need. Do you expect to receive financial assistance (e.g. other scholarships, grants, financial aid, help from family) for the upcoming academic year? Please address this.

High School

- Name of high school, address, phone number
- Graduation date
- Grade point average
- Class rank (if applicable)

College or University (if applicable)

- Name of college or university, address, phone number
- College major/minor
- Month/year enrolled
- Credits completed
- Expected graduation date
- Grade point average

Essay Questions

Required: Please answer all questions and be sincere, open, reflective, and clear when writing your responses (350 words or less per response).

1. Adoption

Tell us about an event or interaction that made you reflect on your adoption. How did this impact your adoptee identity? What changes, if any, have you made as a result?

2. Adversity

Describe a challenge or hardship you have faced. What did you do to overcome it? What did you learn? How did you grow?

3. Community Engagement

Tell us about one of your experiences being involved with a group, club, or organization. What did you do and what motivated you to do it? What was its impact? Why did you choose to share this specific experience? If you are active in any adoptee communities, tell us about it.

4. Goals

What are some of your current academic and long-term career goals? How did you decide on these goals? What steps are you taking to achieve them?

5. Scholarship

Why are you applying for the Also-Known-As Adoptee Excellence scholarship? If selected, what long-term (i.e. after college) goals will it help you achieve? Do you envision your goals having an impact on others in the local or international community? If so, how?